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EXAMINER

JOO, JOSHUA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/935,253	Applicant(s) FRIEL ET AL.	
	Examiner Joshua Joo	Art Unit 2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-10 and 12-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-10 and 12-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/21/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Appeal Brief filed 2/9/2006

1. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, and 12-28 are presented for examination.
2. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 11/21/2005, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, 3, 5-10, and 12-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted 6/21/2005 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 3, 5-10, 12-17, 19-21, and 23-24 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- i) As per claims 3, 5-10, 12-17, the claims depend on the method of claim 1. Therefore, the claim should recite the limitation of "The method".
- ii) As per claims 19-21, the claims depend on the gateway of claim 18. Therefore the claims should recite the limitation of "The gatekeeper".
- iii) As per claims 23-24, the claims depend on the gateway of claim 22. Therefore, the claims should recite the limitation of "The gateway".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. Claims 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the invention is not limited to tangible embodiments (e.g., computer program). As such, the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter and is therefore non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 18-21, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- i) As per claims 18 and 27, the limitation of "that gateway" lacks antecedent basis since there are a "plurality of gateways".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 12, 13, 22, 23, 25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien, Jr, US Publication #2003/0031165 (O'Brien hereinafter), in view of Donovan, US Patent #6,480,588 (Donovan hereinafter) and Arrow et al, US Patent #6,175,917 (Arrow hereinafter).

11. As per claims 1, 22, and 28, O'Brien teaches substantially the invention as claimed including an invention for determining a packet network address of at least one gateway which can be contacted to reach a destination terminal from an originating terminal via a packet based communications network, the network comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and further comprising a gatekeeper (Fig. 1), said gatekeeper having information about each gateway, said information comprising an identifier for each terminal connected to that gateway and a packet network address for that gateway, O'Brien's teachings comprising software and hardware to perform the method (Paragraph 0065, 0074), and further comprising:

i) sending a request from an originating gateway connected to the originating terminal to the gatekeeper, said request comprising the identifier of the destination terminal (Paragraph 0023. Information regarding user is send to the inbound gatekeeper. The telephone number the user calls routes the call);

ii) receiving a reply at the originating gateway from the gatekeeper said reply comprising the information at least one and possibly more of the gateways which can be

Art Unit: 2154

contacted to reach the destination terminal (Paragraph 0025. Once the H.323 server and the outbound gatekeeper establish signaling, the server through gatekeeper provides inbound gateway with one of a collection of outbound gateways.);

12. O'Brien teaches substantial features of the claimed invention including instructing an inbound gateway to transmit data to an outbound gateway. However, O'Brien does not explicitly teach that the reply comprises of the packet network address of the gateway used to contact the destination terminal. O'Brien also does not teach wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone are also used for terminals of the second zone.

13. Donovan teaches of providing telephony service via an IP system, where an originating gatekeeper responds to the originating gateway by providing the destination gateway's IP address information (Col 2, lines 43-51).

14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien and Donovan because both teachings deal with providing Voice Over Internet Protocol. Furthermore, the teachings of Donovan for the gatekeeper's response to contain the IP address of the destination gateway would improve the system of O'Brien by allowing the inbound gateway to establish a connection with the outbound gateway and transmit data addressed to the outbound gateway.

15. Arrow teaches of a communication network comprising different networks, each network comprising a plurality of nodes connected to a plurality of gateways, and wherein different

Art Unit: 2154

nodes in different networks use the same address (Col 5, line 50 - Col 6, line 7; Col 6, lines 42-54; Col 16, lines 1-15).

16. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow because the teachings of Arrow to perform the process of Paragraph 14 would improve the system of O'Brien and Donovan by allowing nodes in different networks to implement the same address scheme, while using different public addresses, which would improve security and reduce the number of required addresses in a network with limited availability of addresses.

17. As per claim 5, O'Brien teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply is provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of the destination terminal identifier (Paragraph 0023, 0025, 0047. The response is based on the destination terminal identifier.).

18. As per claims 6 and 23, O'Brien teaches the invention, wherein said request further comprises the packet network address of the originating gateway (Paragraph 0023, 0025; 0048. The server and the inbound gatekeeper can communicate with the inbound gateway. It is inherent that the gateway has an address for the gatekeeper to respond to the gateway.).

19. As per claim 7, O'Brien does not teach a method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said reply is provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of the unique label of the originating gateway as well as the destination terminal identifier.

20. Donovan teaches of a reply provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of the identifier of the originating gateway and the destination terminal identifier (Col 2, lines 33-51).

21. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow because the teachings of Donovan for a reply provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of the identifier of the originating gateway and the destination terminal identifier would improve the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow by providing efficient and proper routing based on originating and terminating locations.

22. As per claim 10, O'Brien teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identifiers are of a type selected from telephone numbers, universal resource identifiers (URLs), email addresses or any other suitable type of H.323 standard alias (Paragraph 0022).

23. As per claim 12, O'Brien teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the request is an H.323 admission request. (Paragraph 0004-0005, 0023. Network is H.323 protocol. Gateway sends user information to gatekeeper.)

24. As per claim 13, O'Brien teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reply is an H.323 admission confirm message (Paragraph 0004-0005, 0025. Network is H.323 protocol. Gatekeeper responds to gateway with routing information.).

25. As per claim 25, O'Brien teaches where a communications network comprises of a gateway as claimed in claim 22 (Paragraph 0023).

26. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow, in view of Haga, US Patent #6,366,576 (Haga hereinafter).

Art Unit: 2154

27. As per claim 3, O'Brien does not teach a method as claimed in 1 wherein said reply comprises information about only one gateway, which is in the same zone as the originating terminal.

28. Haga teaches of routing calls from a terminal through gateways, where the gatekeeper will locate a gateway that is within the intranet of the caller (Col 4, lines 9-11.).

29. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Donovan, Arrow, and Haga because the teachings of Haga to have response comprising a gateway within the same zone as the originating terminal would improve the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow by providing a more efficient method of routing data, and reducing the cost of communication for the users.

30. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow, in view of Araujo, US Patent #6,393,488 (Araujo hereinafter).

31. As per claim 8, O'Brien does not teach a method as claimed in claim 2 wherein if the destination terminal identifier occurs in both zones, the reply received specifies that a gateway in the originating zone should be contacted.

32. Araujo also teaches of different nodes in different networks with the same identifier, wherein if the identifier occurs in both networks, a system notifies the other network (Col 6, lines 1-18).

33. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien's, Donovan, Arrow, and Araujo because the

Art Unit: 2154

teachings of Araujo to send a notification if an identifier occurs in two zones would improve the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow by providing information which may avoid confusion and improper routing of data.

34. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow, and in view of Tomoike, US Patent #5,940,512 (Tomoike hereinafter).

35. As per claim 9, O'Brien does not teach a method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first zone is associated with a first enterprise and a second zone is associated with a second enterprise.

36. Tomoike discloses in the "Background of the Invention" that a plurality of service providers offer services to different regions or areas (Col 1, line 12-14).

37. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow with the teachings of Tomoike because the teachings of Tomoike to have different services associated with different zones would improve the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow by providing connection between two service areas, and providing users with varying services, such as different quality of service and cost of routing data.

38. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien and Donovan, and Arrow, in view of Mussman et al, US Publication #2002/0159440 (Mussman hereinafter).

Art Unit: 2154

39. As per claim 14, O'Brien does not teach the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each gateway is unaware of which terminals are connected to other gateways in the communications network.

40. Mussman teaches of call screening based on the H.323 standard, wherein the gatekeeper manages endpoints and provides zone managements for terminals and gateways. Gateways may not know where the terminals are located, and requests the gatekeeper for routing (Paragraph 0025, 0037).

41. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Donovan, Arrow, and Mussman because the teachings of Mussman for the gateway to be unaware of which terminals are connected to other gateways, wherein the gatekeeper maintain and manage the terminals in the zone would increase the efficiency of the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow by providing a central management of gateways and implementing gateway that provide the best possible routing for terminals within its zone by considering factors such as location, cost, and traffic.

42. Claims 15-16, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow, in view of Ng et al, US Patent #6,791,970 (Ng hereinafter).

43. As per claim 15, O'Brien does not teach a method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said gatekeeper further comprises information about which terminals are accessible from each gateway together with cost information associated with accessing those terminals from each gateway.

Art Unit: 2154

44. Ng teaches of determining the lowest cost gateway provider, where the gatekeeper has a gateway provider database that maintains a list of gateways and their destination telephones, which includes the rates of the gateways (Col 3, lines 10-22).

45. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Donovan, Arrow, and Ng because the teachings of Ng to maintain a list of the cost information with accessing the terminals through each gateway would improve the capability of the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow by allowing the gatekeeper to determine the most cost effective method routing.

46. As per claim 16, O'Brien does not teach the method as claimed in claim 15 wherein said reply comprises information about each gateway that can be used to access the destination terminal together with associated cost information.

47. Ng teaches of determining the lowest cost gateway provider, where the gatekeeper replies with selected gateway providers with the associated costs (Col 3, lines 10-12; Col 4, lines 9-13).

48. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Donovan, Arrow, and Ng because the teachings of Ng to provide the associated cost of accessing the gateway would improve the functionality of the system of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow by providing information that may be used to select a gateway based on cost, and routing path that would meet a user's financial standard.

49. As per claim 24, O'Brien does not teach of a gateway as claimed in 22 wherein said reply comprises cost information.

50. However, claim 24 does not define any new limitation from the previously rejected claims. Therefore, claim 24 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 16.

51. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien, Donovan, Arrow, and Ng, in view of Thompson III et al, US Publication #2002/0154751 (Thompson hereinafter).

52. As per claim 17, O'Brien does not teach a method as claim 16 wherein said reply comprises a list of said gateways in order of the associated costs.

53. Thompson teaches of listing and ranking plans according to cost (Paragraph 67).

54. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of O'Brien, Donovan, Arrow, and Ng with the teachings of Thompson because the teachings of to put the list in the order of the costs would improve the user-friendliness of the system by providing an ordered list that would make it more convenient for the user to compare the costs of routing through each gateway.

55. Claims 18-21, 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien, in view of Ng, Donovan, and Arrow.

56. As per claims 18 and 27, O'Brien teaches substantial the invention as claimed including an apparatus arranged for use in a packet-based communications network comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein identifiers are associated with each terminal and each gateway has a packet network address, O'Brien's teachings comprising (Fig. 1; Paragraph 0065, 0074):

Art Unit: 2154

i) an input arranged to receive a request from a gateway in the communications network, said request comprising an identifier of a destination terminal, (Paragraph 0023, Information regarding user is send to the inbound gatekeeper. The telephone number the user calls routes the call.);

ii) in response to requests received from gateways in the communication network, said requests comprising an identifier of a destination terminal (Paragraph 0023. Gatekeeper receives request from gateway, where the request comprises of the telephone number.);

iii) an output arranged to send a reply to the originating gateway, said reply comprising information about at least one and possibly more gateways which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal (Paragraph 0025, Once the H.323 server and outbound establish signaling, the server provides the called inbound gateway with one of a collection of outbound gateways.).

57. O'Brien teaches substantial features of the claimed invention including instructing an inbound gateway to transmit data to an outbound gateway and an outbound keeper that determines the packet network address of at least one and possibility more gateways (Paragraph 0025). However, O'Brien does not teach of a data store arranged to store information about each gateway in the communications network, said information comprising the identifier of each terminal connected to that gateway and the packet network address of that gateway; a processor arranged to determine the packet network address of at least one and possibly more gateways which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal; wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of the terminal identifiers of the first zone are also used for terminals of the second zone.

Art Unit: 2154

58. Ng teaches of determining a gateway provider, where the gatekeeper has a gateway provider database wherein the database maintains the gateways and the destination PSTN telephones associated with the gateways. The gatekeeper can determine which of the gateways provide the lowest cost to reach the destination terminal, where the gatekeeper can establish a communication link with the destination gateway (Col 3, lines 10-20, 55-65; Col 4, lines 35-38).

59. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien and Ng because both inventions deal with using the Internet to route telephone calls. Furthermore, the teachings of Ng to store information about the gateways and their associated terminals, and the address of the destination gateways would improve the capability of O'Brien's system by allowing the gatekeeper to properly manage all the gateways and terminals within its zone, and allowing the gatekeeper to select the lowest cost connection. Furthermore, the teachings of Ng for the gatekeeper to determine the address of the gateways would allow the gatekeeper to establish a communication link with the gateway.

60. Donovan teaches an invention for providing telephony service via the Internet Protocol System, where an originating gatekeeper responds to the originating gateway by providing the destination gateway's IP address information (Col 2, lines 43-51).

61. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien and Donovan because both inventions deal with providing Voice Over Internet Protocol where the connections are established by inbound, outbound gateways and inbound, outbound gatekeepers. The teachings of Donovan for the gatekeeper's response to the inbound gateway to contain the IP address of the destination gateway allows for the inbound gateway to establish a connection with the outbound gateway.

62. Arrow teaches of a communication network comprising different networks, each network comprising a plurality of nodes connected to a plurality of gateways, and wherein different nodes in different networks use the same address (Col 5, line 50 - Col 6, line 7; Col 6, lines 42-54; Col 16, lines 1-15).

63. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Donovan, and Arrow because the teachings of Arrow to perform the process of Paragraph 61 would improve the system of O'Brien and Donovan by allowing nodes in different networks to implement the same address scheme, while using different public addresses, which would improve security and reduce the number of required addresses in a network where addresses have limited availability.

64. As per claim 19, O'Brien does not teach a gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18 wherein said memory is further arranged to store cost information relating to the cost of accessing each available terminal from each gateway.

65. Ng teaches an invention for determining the lowest cost gateway provider, where the gatekeeper has a gateway provider database where the database keeps track of gateways and their destination telephones, which includes the rates of the gateways (Col 3, lines 10-22).

66. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Ng, Donovan, and Arrow because the teachings of Ng to maintain a list of the cost information with accessing the terminals through each gateway would improve the system of O'Brien, Ng, and Donovan by allowing the gatekeeper to determine the most cost effective method of routing.

67. As per claim 20, O'Brien does not teach of a gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18 wherein the processor is arranged to determine the packet network address on the basis of said destination terminal identifier.

68. Donovan teaches of a gatekeeper determining the packet network address on the basis of said destination terminal identifier (Col 2, lines 36-41).

69. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Ng, Donovan, and Arrow because the teachings of Donovan to determine the packet network address on the basis of said destination identifier would improve the system of O'Brien, Ng, Donovan, and Arrow by allowing the originating gateway to establish a connection between the end terminal and the destination gateway to route traffic. Furthermore, it would allow the gatekeeper to determine a lower cost gateway.

70. As per claim 21, O'Brien teaches a gatekeeper as claimed in claim 19, wherein said request further comprises the packet network address of the originating gateway connected to the originating terminal (Paragraph 0025; 0044-0048). However, O'Brien does not explicitly teach that the processor is arranged to determine said packet network address of at least one and possibly more gateways which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal on the basis of the packet network address of the originating gateway as well as the destination terminal identifier.

71. Donovan teaches of a gatekeeper determining the packet network address of a gateway to contact the destination terminal on the basis of the originating gateway and the destination terminal identifier (Col 2, lines 36-41).

72. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of O'Brien, Ng, Donovan, and Arrow because the teachings of Donovan to determine the packet network address of a gateway to contact the destination terminal on the basis of the originating gateway and the destination terminal identifier would improve the system of O'Brien, Ng, Donovan, and Arrow by allowing the originating gateway to establish a connection between the end terminal and the destination gateway to route traffic. Furthermore, it would allow the gatekeeper to determine a lower cost gateway.

73. As per claim 26, O'Brien teaches a communications network comprising a gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18 (Paragraph 0023).

Conclusion

74. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

75. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8AM to 5PM and every other Friday.


76. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on 571 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

77. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

Art Unit: 2154

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 13, 2006
JJ

 **JOHN FOLLANSBEE**
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